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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Signal Company of the 1st Aeroclub Cottbus		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED	12 October 1955		
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			25X1

2. In early 1955, 1st Aeroclub Cottbus was organized as follows:

I, II, and III battalion
signal company

The signal company is organized into:

headquarters detachment
construction detail
detail in charge of ground radio stations.

The signal company in Cottbus was established in early 1954. On 10 October 1954, the company had a strength of 3 officers and 53 men. In late October 1954, 12 EM were transferred from the signal training course of the 3rd Aeroclub Bautzen to the signal company at Cottbus. In November 1954 and in late January 1955, eight officers were transferred from Kamenz to Cottbus. Since 1 March 1955, the signal company had a total personnel strength of 15 officers and 61 EM and NCOs. The construction detail had a strength of one officer and 9 men. The 1st Aeroclub Cottbus had numerical designation 600. The address of the signal company was POB 300/A, Cottbus.1

3. Members of the signal company wore the following service color:

Officers: light-blue collar patches with silver wing and light-blue-bordered silver epaulets.

Personnel: light-blue collar patches with silver wing and light blue-bordered epaulets.

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The wearing of silver wing collar patches has been officially introduced with the signal company in February 1955.

4. The signal company was quartered at Cottbus airfield at the cantonment area referred to as Object III, north of the taxiway and south of the highway leading from Cottbus to Burg. The I, II, and III battalion of the 1st Aeroclub and the 1st Tech Base were also stationed at Object III. The administration of the Aeroclub (Verwaltung des Aeroclubs) (VDA) was located at Object I north of the highway leading to Burg. Object I was surrounded by a board fence and was guarded by a special detail. The area was restricted to members of the signal company. All other objects were guarded by personnel of the guard detail of the 1st Tech Base.²
5. Weapons of the signal company were stored at an ordnance depot in a solid building. The company was equipped with model 44 carbines, model 41 submachine guns, model TT 33, model O8, and model FN pistols. A central ordnance depot was installed in the headquarters building of the 1st Aeroclub Cottbus.

A depot for signal equipment was installed in a cellar of another solid building. The following equipment was stored there:

Telephone equipment: an undetermined number of model FF 53 sets of Soviet make, 6 decimal switchboards
40 to 50 reels with types TK 7 and TK 19 telephone cables, each reel consisting of 700 meters cable.

Teleprinters: 1 fifty teletype switchboard,
3 page teleprinters.

Radio equipment: about 10 Liliptut type sets,
the following radio equipment was installed in a Molotov type radio truck:
1 RSB station
1 RAF station
1 RAS station (installed in January 1955)
1 single-engine radio beacon (presumably a landing beacon).

These radio installations were operated by radio operators of the detail in charge of ground radio stations and of the headquarters detachment of the signal company. The radio installations were erected on the airfield during air activity.

6.

7. On the average, personnel of the signal company belonged to age classes 1934, 1935, and 1936. About 30 percent came from Mecklenburg and Brandenburg and about 70 percent from Saxony and Thuringia. The EM received a net pay of 270 DME.

8. Political indoctrination was held within the framework of the individual details by the political officer of the company and three trained EM who were convinced SED members. A special group was formed from NGOs and trained EM of the individual details. About 10 percent of this group were believed to be convinced Communists and the other 90 percent were fellow-travellers. The trainees did not show any great enthusiasm in their training activities. The trainers were particularly reluctant towards the drilling exercises. The personnel were also dissatisfied by the fact, that flying personnel were given priority over them, in every respect.

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9. Between May and October 1954, a signal training course with about 100 trainees was held by the 3rd Aeroclub Bautzen. Radio operators, phone operators, and teletype operators were trained there.³
10. The Aeroclub Cottbus consisted of three battalions. The 3rd Bn was formed in November 1954. In December 1954 and January 1955, the 5th Tech Base at Cottbus was formed, and personnel from the agency at Augustenbad and probably from the 1st Tech Base were transferred to this unit. In early March 1955, the 5th Tech Base was transferred to Jocksdorf.⁴
11. The following officers have become known:
 - Lieutenant Colonel Raatz (fnu), chief of the 1st Aeroclub
 - Lieutenant Colonel Bitterlich (fnu) chief of staff
 - Captain Rauh (fnu), deputy chief of staff
 - Lieutenant Schmalz (fnu), company commander of the signal company
 - Senior Lieutenant Pohle (fnu), political officer of the signal company
 - Senior Lieutenant Krause (fnu) technical officer
 - Junior Lieutenant Heinemann (fnu), chief of the construction detail
 - Junior Lieutenant Millnicke (fnu), chief of the construction detail.

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1. Comment. The existence of a signal company of Aeroclubs is reported for the first time. The signal company will insure independence from the technical base and will result in speedy establishment of signal communications when units are transferred to other airfields.
2. Comment. Object II which was not mentioned in the present report probably is the former Funker-Kaserne on the southeastern edge of Cottbus airfield. The guard battalion of the VDA Headquarters, the motor vehicle company, and the signal company of the VDA Headquarters are quartered in this kaserne.
3. Comment. Information on training courses for signal personnel at the Aeroclub Bautzen has been received previously.
4. Comment. The handing over of Jocksdorf airfield by the Soviets to the VPL in March 1955 was reported previously. Possibly, the III battalion of Aeroclub Cottbus or the III battalion of Aeroclub Drewitz is stationed at Jocksdorf.

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